



This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.

Sediment Control for Raw Material Storage Areas

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks - Maintenance Staff Guide, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jennifer Malcolm, HQ Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0086, Roger Churchwell, HQ Environmental Engineering, (916) 653-3653

The Storm Water Task Force conducted follow-up compliance inspections at Maintenance facilities during Fall and Winter 1998-99. Inspectors observed significant improvement over the initial storm water inspections of Spring 1998, and noted areas of continuing concern. An issue commonly noted on facility follow-up inspection reports was the control of sediment from raw material storage areas. This bulletin presents some good practices for controlling sediment runoff.

Permanent Controls

Permanent sediment controls are being reviewed for implementation at individual facilities. After review and evaluation, recommended permanent sediment controls will be presented in future bulletins. A simple permanent sediment control observed during follow-up facility inspections was the installation of berms around storage areas. Berms help to minimize tracking of materials out of storage areas and to contain sediment within the storage area. Permanent rolled berms or ramp berms should be made of hot asphalt or Portland Concrete Cement (PCC).

Cold mix asphalt is not recommended for use as raw material containment berms. Over time, cold mix has the potential to break up and not function as well as hot mix asphalt or PCC.



Hot mix asphalt rolled berm installed in front of raw material storage bunkers.

Other Sediment Control Practices

The best way to keep sediment from entering the storm water drainage system is to prevent sediment from coming into contact with storm water. The following practices to prevent contact with rain or runoff should be implemented, if feasible:

- Cover raw materials (especially cold mix) during the rainy season and have covers readily available outside the rainy season when rain is predicted.
- Sweep surfaces where material is tracked, blown, spilled or washed from the storage area.
- Reduce the size of stockpiles or the amount of stockpiled materials during the rainy season.

Other interim sediment controls include using temporary sediment controls to contain raw materials such as sand bags, straw bales or silt fences (Refer to the March 1999 *Maintenance Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin*, available on the Caltrans website listed below).

Installed But Not Forgotten

Both permanent and temporary sediment controls require maintenance. Sediment contained by temporary or permanent controls should be removed periodically.

Temporary sediment controls, such as sand bags and straw bales can degrade and may contribute to storm water pollution. Temporary and permanent sediment controls should be inspected regularly and replaced or repaired as needed.